

Classifying and Coding Wastes from physico-treatment facilities

FAQs

1. *Why is this guidance needed*

This guidance provides clarity on how to classify and code output from specific physico-chemical treatment facilities. It is to be read in conjunction with our technical guidance WM2 which provides guidance on assessing and classifying hazardous wastes.

2. *Who will need this guidance?*

Producers of hazardous wastes and hazardous waste management operators.

3. *What is the legal basis for this guidance?*

The principles for classifying and coding a hazardous waste are found in the Hazardous Waste Regulations¹ (HWR) and the List of Waste Regulations² (LoWR). The List of Waste Regulations implement the latest version of the List of Wastes Decision. We call this 'the List' and it is also known as the European Waste Catalogue (EWC). These regulations are the legal framework for the decisions in the guidance.

4. *What will hazardous waste producers and the waste management operators have to do?*

Producers treating their own wastes and operators of waste treatment facilities, will have to ensure that hazardous wastes that have been treated are classified and coded in line with the guidance.

5. *What will be the impact of this guidance?*

The provision of clarity given in the document may improve treatment activities and facilitate the development of new treatment technologies. There may be more wastes classified as hazardous. However, wastes will be classified correctly and so decisions about final disposal routes will be suited to the type of wastes providing a better environmental outcome.

¹ 'Hazardous Waste Regulations' is an abbreviation for both the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Hazardous Waste (Wales) Regulations 2005.

² 'List of Waste Regulations' is an abbreviation for both the List of Wastes (England) Regulations 2005 and the List of Wastes (Wales) Regulations 2005.

6. *An earlier draft of this guidance required all hazards in a waste to be treated to make the waste non-hazardous. Why is this not required in this version?*

We have accepted that when certain treatment activities are carried out, there will be a degree of dilution of some of the dangerous components as part of the treatment process that will result in a non-hazardous residue. The guidance explains where this is acceptable and where we also consider that insufficient treatment of dangerous substances has been carried out such that the residue will remain hazardous.

7. *I don't understand why my waste is hazardous when it doesn't contain any hazardous properties. How can this be?*

The List of Waste Regulations identify that some wastes are “absolutely” hazardous regardless of what they contain. They are seen as hazardous because they are almost always going to be hazardous or because they are seen to be dangerous by how the waste was produced. For example, all **11 01 05* pickling acids** and all **19 03 06* wastes marked as hazardous, solidified** are absolutely hazardous. In our technical guidance [WM2](#) we identify these wastes by marking them in **red**.

8. *Why hasn't the guidance included other physico-chemical treatments such as oxidation/reduction?*

We have not been able to cover all treatment methods in the guide. If you have specific treatment methods that produce a residue that requires disposal elsewhere (e.g. further treatment or landfill) you should contact us to see if we can agree a code and classification for the waste.

9. *Why isn't there any guidance on coding macerated wastes?*

As stated above we have not been able to cover all treatment methods in the guide. If you have specific treatment methods that produce a residue that requires disposal elsewhere (e.g. further treatment or landfill) you should contact us to see if we can agree a code and classification for the waste.

10. *Why can't EWC code 19 03 05 be used to code wastes from stabilisation of hazardous waste?*

EWC Code 19 03 05 is for coding fully stabilised wastes i.e. wastes where all the hazards have been treated. To date, we have not been given an example of a stabilisation process that treats all of the hazardous properties.

11. If I add acid to a waste and then treat the mixture with alkali isn't this process neutralisation?

No. The neutralisation has to be fundamental to the reason the waste is treated. If for example you add acid to a pesticide to acidify it, and then add alkali to neutralise the acid, the pesticide is not neutralised - the pesticide is simply stabilised or solidified (19 03 04* or 19 03 06*) into the resulting treatment sludge.

12. According to your guide, my waste is 19 03 04 waste marked as hazardous, partly stabilised, . But I've analysed it and it hasn't got any hazardous properties - isn't it non-hazardous?*

No. 19 03 04* is an absolute hazardous waste listing. It is coded as hazardous because the components that caused the original waste to be hazardous are stabilised in the matrix of the output waste. There is no need to analyse the waste to identify it as hazardous. You will need to consign the waste as hazardous if it leaves your site. If it does not have any hazards, you can put "none" in the hazardous properties section of the consignment note.